

# HISTORY OF ORLEANS COUNTY CHURCHES

by  
Helen E. Allen

Town of Yates

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### Town of Yates

Yates is the northwestern town in the County. It was set off from Ridgeway on April 17, 1822 as Northton. The name was changed a year later in honor of Joseph C. Yates, then governor of New York State. George Houseman was the first permanent settler in the area in 1809. A few others came the following year but it was not until 1916 that any number of families came into the heavily wooded section which became the town of Yates. Several of those pioneer families have descendants still living in the area.

Considering the slowness of settlement it is quite remarkable that a Methodist Class was formed in 1817 and two years later there were 3 Classes in the area. After joining together these Methodists became the first religious society in the Town, although the Baptists actually organized as a Church before they did. The third early Church in the area was also a Methodist Episcopal located at the western boundary of Yates on County Line Road. A Presbyterian Church was formed in 1833 so only 24 years after the first family settled in this wilderness there were four active Churches in Yates. During the remainder of the nineteenth century four more were formed. Six denominations were represented, with three Methodist Episcopal Churches, one each Free Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian and Christian. The four earliest Churches and one later, the Wesleyan Methodist at Ashwood are still active in 1971. Two, the Free Methodist and the Christian were only active for short periods and closed before the end of the century, another the Millers M. E. Church closed early in the present century. In addition two Churches organized early in the twentieth century, St. John's Lutheran Church and St. Joseph's R. C. are active in 1971.

The eight nineteenth century Churches built 10 edifices during that period and the Wesleyans a new one in 1968. Of these 5 are in use as churches, The Wesleyans use their outgrown building for youth programs. Three were destroyed by fire, the first Baptist meeting house which was immediately replaced by a brick edifice, the church at Millers in 1911 which was not replaced, the building the Christian Church used only a few years burned in 1940. The first Methodist meeting house was moved to the west side of Main St. and used first for a factory and then as a hardware store for many years. It was torn down in 1960 to clear a site for the new Post Office. The Free Methodist building is now empty after being used for many years as the Fraser Drug Store.

The two twentieth century Churches are using their original edifices.



## HISTORY OF ORLEANS COUNTY CHURCHES

### United Methodist Church, Lyndonville, New York

Methodist Circuit Riders who came, preaching the gospel to all of the settlements in the wilderness that was western New York in 1816, set up preaching stations in the area which later became the Town of Yates. Everyone ~~was~~ welcomed to the services. A year later the first Methodist Episcopal class with five members was formed by the Rev. James Hall. He was not one of the Ridgeway Circuit preachers and it is not now known where he came from.

Zachariah Paddock was appointed to the Circuit in 1818 and continued the preaching services and instruction of those especially interested in Methodism. In 1819 when John Alverson was working on the Circuit he found three M. E. classes in this area and united them into one which became the nucleus of the First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Yates which organized and was incorporated on Mar. 27, 1827. The trustees elected at that time were Samuel Church, Samuel Warner, Stephen B. Johnson and Stephen W. Mudgett. Two years earlier Samuel Church had organized a Sunday School which met in the brick schoolhouse in the village. He continued to serve as superintendent of the Sunday School for more than twenty years.

As the first religious society in Yates, the Methodists received the "Gospel Plot" given by the Holland Land Company and there built their meeting house, the first one in the town, that same year. It was dedicated early in 1828. This frame building was enlarged and remodeled in 1840 to meet the needs of the growing Church. In 1834 a pastor was assigned to the work in Yates who also ministered to the M. E. Churches in Carlton. The following year additional land was purchased and a parsonage built.

In 1862 the Church reincorporated as the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Lyndonville. During the celebration of one hundred years of Methodism in America in 1866, the congregation of the Lyndonville Church made a generous centennial offering. This money was used the following year to build the brick edifice which is still in use. A. L. Backus was the pastor under whose leadership the work was carried on and the trustees were William Parsons, B. B. Barry, Daniel Houseman, Solon Mudgett, F. H. Daniels, and Charles Barry. The old building was removed from the site and used as a factory and later a store. Services were held in the brick church on the first Sunday of January, 1868 and it was dedicated later that year by the Rev. Jesse T. Peck, D. D. The members were happy to entertain Genesee Conference in <sup>their</sup> beautiful new church in 1869. A number of the ministers attending were veterans of Ridgeway Circuit who had ridden horseback through the forests preaching in the open or in the rude cabins of the pioneer

Lyndonville Methodists continued to improve their Church property during the passing years. A new parsonage was built in 1882. Memorial windows placed in the church in 1903 and a few years later electric lights were installed in both buildings. A hardwood floor and new pews were installed in the sanctuary. A much needed extra room was added on to the church in 1912 at a cost of \$4000. At about the same time it was learned that Andrew Carnegie was helping many small Church purchase fine organs. Accordingly \$1100 was raised and with the Carnegie gift of \$700 a pipe organ was purchased. In 1914 it was decided that the lofty spire which had graced the church was no longer safe so it was removed.



When the first meeting house was built the pews were rented to members each year as a means of paying Church expenses. This practice was continued until the turn of the century. Members who lived beyond walking distance from the Church, in early days built sheds on the grounds to shelter their horses and vehicles during services. In the first or second decade of the present century the sheds were removed and parking space for autos provided.

Membership had increased to 100 with 10 probationers and Sunday School enrollment of 165 when the brick church was built. When the Lyndonville Methodists celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the forming of that first little class of five in 1817, membership was 264 with 26 probationers and a Sunday School of 400. The leaders of the Church had always<sup>been</sup> concerned about the religious training of the children as evidenced by the fact that a Sunday School was organized even before the building of a meeting house. Their concern continued and teachers and others responsible often met to consider the best methods of instruction. They were among the first in the County to use visual aids in teaching and great effort was made to secure capable and consecrated teachers and provide adequate facilities for classes.

From the first hymn singing and preaching services in the days of the Circuit Riders music has been a vital part of Methodist worship. There have always been people with musical ability in this Church who gladly used their talent to enrich programs with vocal or instrumental music. In 1957 there were four choirs, Adult, Youth, Junior and Cherub.

Young people were organized years ago for service, study, devotional services and fun in the Epworth League which later became the present Methodist Youth Fellowship.

During the 1950s the men began holding Lenten luncheon meetings during Lent and held an annual Laymen's Retreat at Robin Hill, home of William and Mary Smith in October.

The women were always faithful workers in the Church and many years ago organized a Ladies Aid, Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, which in 1940 were reorganized as the Women's Society of Christian Service.

In 1939, after the merging of three Methodist bodies, the word "Episcopal" was dropped from the official name. Since a more recent merger with a Methodist related Conference, the name of General Conference and all member Churches has become "United Methodist Church."

The Lyndonville Church in 1946, under the leadership of the Rev. Raymond Draffin initiated a long range building improvement program. A Finance Committee raised \$25,000 to begin the work. The first changes were the construction of rest rooms and the replacement of the pipe organ by a Hammond Electric organ with chimes and an amplifying system. Most of the cost of the organ was met by a bequest from Mrs. Bertha Housel for that purpose and the Amplifying system was installed by Paul Parsons in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Parsons. The cornerstone of the new addition was laid with appropriate ceremony on May 7, 1950 and construction completed so that the annual Mother and daughter banquet was held in the new dining room on May 31 1951 and prepared in the new kitchen.



Work was begun in the sanctuary on Jan. 12, 1953 and progressed so rapidly that the Palm Sunday service on March 29 was held in the beautifully remodeled sanctuary. This completed the projects planned in 1946 and the Rev. Draffin, under whose pastoral leadership the work had been done, was called to another Church in December of that year. The total cost of the improvements, \$40,474.47 was paid by March 15, 1955.

The young people in the winter of 1954 began the difficult project of digging under and lowering the basement floor under the dining room with the idea of providing a large recreation room for themselves. After three years of work with the help of the men a room for recreation and social needs of all members of the Church family was finally completed. At about the same time an upstairs Sunday School room was beautifully redecorated with a black walnut altar built by George Smith and Harry Maines Jr. as the focal point of the room. Many people worked on this room which was called the "Upper Room" which is used by older classes of the Church School. During the same period the parsonage was modernized and redecorated by volunteer labor at a cost of \$2,500.

After a few years of rest from building, the congregation again decided to enlarge their educational facilities. In 1967 a fine two-story brick faced addition was built on the south side of the church. It provided a pastor's study, office for the secretary, two class rooms for small children, Youth and adult classroom lounges and other classrooms. It was completed at a cost of about \$45,000.

In 1968 William A. Smith replaced the old steeple which had been sadly missed for more than fifty years, with a graceful aluminum replica in memory of his wife. At the same time the members remodeled the front of the edifice with new entrance doors, concrete walk to the street, new lighted bulletin board and attractive planting.

The Methodists of Lyndonville have spent much money and effort in the improvement, enlargement and beautification of their property during the passing years. But material matters were never the chief concern of the Church. As pastors and members carried on their Christian program changes were made in buildings to meet the needs of growing congregations and Church School, changing times and new problems. Always active in community affairs, the Church cooperated in the Flowering Tree project when plantings were made in a park section of the village bordering the dam in Johnson's Creek.

The Church is in Batavia District of Western New York Conference of the United Methodist Church. In addition to supporting the missionary programs of General Conference they support the Orleans Chapter of the Ministry of Concern; have opened their facilities for the area Day Care Center for Migrant children; provide space for a Community Youth Center with activities on Saturday evenings and sponsor a complete Scouting program for boys and girls. Young people participate in the camping program of Conference at Watson Memorial Homestead near Corn-ing.

Membership January 1971 is 443: Organizations \* Women's Society of Christian Service, Jr. and Sr. United Methodist Youth groups. The pastor is the Rev. F. Ray Hazlett. Sunday services are - Church <sup>School</sup> at 9:45 a.m., Worship service 11:00 a.m. Various organization and board meetings throughout the week.



Methodist Board and Committee members are too numerous to list completely, but those having most responsibility are at this time: Chairman Administrative Board - James Whipple, Recording Sec. Mrs. Gregory Peters, Current Expense Treasurer - Fred Peters, Lay Leader - Louis Salen, Lay Member of Conference - Mrs. Frank Housel, Jr., Chm, Bd. of Ministries - Harry Maines, Jr., Chm. Pastor-Parish Relations Comm. - Francis Rumble, Pres. W.S.C.S. - Mrs. Clayton Housel, Pres. Bd. of Trustees - LeRoy Meland, Director Evangelism - Miss Barbara Mason, Dir. Missions - Mrs. Wilson McCagg, Dir. Music - Mrs. Gary Housel, Christian Social Concerns Mrs. Paul Mason, Christian Education - Mrs. Wm. Balcerzak, Coordinator Ministry for Youth - Fred Large, Records and History - Miss Martha Thomas, Organist - Mrs. Roger Brown

Pastors who have served the Church were Ridgeway Circuit Preachers 1818- 1839 - Parker Buell, Zachariah Paddock, J. B. Alverson, Peter Jones, B. Williams, John Somerville, E. Boardman, Izaac Puffer, Wm. Bronson, S. Carey, Joseph Atwood, J. B. Roach, John Copeland, E. Her- rick, Hiram May, SW.D. Chase, Mifflin Harker, Orin Abbot, J. Brakeman Ridgeway, Albion and Yates, 1830 - 1833 - Wm. Fowler, J. W. Nevins, E.C Fling, Joseph Atwood, Gustavus Hines; Yates and Carlton 1834 - 1844 - J. B. Lanckton, Orrin Abbott, James Dunham, W. R. Babcock, J. G. Gulic S. C. Church, J. B. Lanckton.

In 1845 the Church became an independent charge with J. B. Lanckton as pastor and he was followed by A. D. Wilbur 1846-47, W. H. Depuy 1848 W. M. Ferfunson 1849, Philo Woodworth 1849-'51, D. F. Parsons 1852-'53, Joseph McCreary, Jr. 1854, Wm. Barrett, 1855-'56, John Bowman 1857-'58, H. R. Smith 1859, John McEwen 1860-'61, D. F. Parsons 1862-63, Henry Van Benschoten 1864-'65, A. L. Backus 1866-'68, R. C. Brownlee 1869-'70, Zenus Hurd 1871, L. T. Foote 1872-'74, C. B. Sparrow 1875, W. S. Tuttle 1876, Thomas Cardus 1877-'78, G. W. Kittenger 1879-'80, G. E. Ackerman, 1881-'82, A. F. Colburn 1883-'84, C. W. Coe 1885, E. C. Swartz 1886-'87, T. T. Rowe 1888-'89, Loren Stiles 1890-'91, J. M. Dobson 1892-'93, R. W. Copeland 1894-'98, B. L. Duckwall 1899-1902, L. J. Muchmore 1903-05, Sanford Brusie 1906-'09, W. A. Harris 1910, B. R. Germer 1911-'15, F. W. Berlin 1916, C. W. Taylor 1917, George E. Morse 1917-'22, Grover C. Bucher 1922-'27, Geo. O. Fischer 1927-'30, Frederick Mittlefehldt 1930-'37, Edward P. Gill, 1937-'43, Elmer Belknap 1943-'46, Raymond H. Draffin 1946-'53, Donald M. Peck 1954 -'59, Chester C. Beebe 1959-'62, Paul Franke 1962-'65, Howard B. Warriner 65-70, F. Ray Hazlett 1970 -



## THE YATES BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Elisha Bowen, a physician and member of the Baptist Church of Palmyra, came to the Holland Purchase in 1820 and took up land in the northern part of the town of Ridgeway, Genesee County. Soon afterward as settlement in western New York increased, the large counties and towns were divided and the Bowen farm was in the town of Yates, Orleans County. In 1821, the Rev. Jeremiah Irons, pastor of the Palmyra Church followed his friend to this area. These two consecrated Baptists organized a Church on June 6, 1822 with the name, Union Baptist Church of Northton, because the Town was first given that name. When the name of the town was changed to Yates a year later, the Church title was changed accordingly. The eight constituent members who met to form the Church in a schoolhouse about a half mile north of Yates Center, were Rev. Irons who became pastor, Dr. Bowen, who served as clerk, John H. Burroughs, Abigail Irons, Laura Irons, Adaline Bowen, Belinda Burroughs and Rebecca Rawson. On the following September 22, nine persons were baptized in Johnson's Creek, the service that day being held in a near by grist mill. A few other Baptists had united with the society so when it was officially recognized as a Church by a Council of Baptist Churches on October 12, there were 22 members. The Council was composed of the Rev. Simeon Dutcher and Deacon Lemuel Daniels of the Gaines Church and the Rev. William Harrington of the Hartland Church. Pastor Irons and Clerk Bowen represented the new Church.

A year after the Yates Church was formed, the pastor met with the pastors of Niagara County Churches and with the Rev. Simeon Dutcher of Gaines, Arah Irons, pastor of the Barre Baptist Church and the Rev. James Carpenter of the Shelby Baptist Church to organize Niagara Baptist Association. In 1825 the Yates Church entertained the annual meeting of the Association, holding the services in Dr. Bowen's barn.

Services were usually held in schoolhouses for ten years. The first covenant meeting and many later ones were held in Dr. Bowen's office. The first meeting house was built in 1832 on the site of the present edifice at Yates Center. The lot was given by the pastor, the Rev. George B. Davis and Friend Curtis. The church was built of wood at a cost of \$1,750 and the dedication sermon was preached by the Rev. E. Savage pastor of the Medina Baptist Church. Two years later a log house was purchased for \$275 for use as a parsonage. It was replaced in 1837 by a neat frame house costing \$500, which was used until house and barn were destroyed by fire in 1852. The buildings were immediately rebuilt, the house at that time costing \$1,000.

Clergymen of most denominations received very small salaries in the nineteenth century and the amounts reported by the Yates Church were no less than paid by the average congregation of comparative size although they seem very penurious by present standards. In 1824 the pastor's salary was \$75 for a year, one half in cash, paid quarterly, the rest in grain. By 1831, with a larger membership, the salary had been increased to \$250 cash with wood for fuel furnished. After the parsonage was acquired in 1834 the salary was \$250 and the parsonage. Later it was gradually increased until in 1845 the Church paid \$500 and use of the parsonage. In that year the membership reached an all time high of 195. However, during hard times just prior to and during the Civil War the salary decreased to \$350, and was raised again to \$500 afterward.

In 1866 the meeting house was completely rebuilt at a cost of \$3,500 and was almost finished when it was destroyed by fire on December 16, Pastor and members immediately set to work to clear away the



ruins and make plans for rebuilding. The present brick edifice was erected the following year at a cost of \$10,000 and was dedicated on January 30, 1868. The Rev. W. T. Potter was the pastor, organizer and untiring worker during those difficult years. This consecrated minister served the Church for 16 years, the longest pastorate in the history of the Yates Church.

The Yates Baptist Church decreased somewhat in membership during the later part of the nineteenth century but was a strong well organized Church with active local and missionary programs at the close of the century. Membership was then about 120, the well staffed Sunday School had been organized early in the life of the Church and since 1892 a mission Sunday School had been conducted in a schoolhouse in the western part of the town; The Women's Missionary Society, formed in 1879 was active and The Baptist Young People's Union, organized at an unknown date had 43 members. The Church was affiliated with the Northern Baptist Convention and Orleans Baptist Association, having transferred from Niagara Association in 1844 when Orleans Churches organized. The members were always missionary minded and contributed to Home and Foreign work as well as to local expenses.

During the present century three members of Yates Baptist Church have gone into Foreign Missionary work. The first was Miss Vada Furness, who sailed on July 11, 1917 for Belgian Congo. This was during World War I, the ship struck a mine off the coast of Africa near Capetown and sank on August 15. The passengers were rescued but she lost all her possessions. Miss Furness served for five years and returned in 1924 for a second term. Two later missionaries are sisters, descendants of the founder and first pastor of the Church, the Rev. Jeremiah Irons, and cousins of Miss Furness. Mrs. Raymond Dunn, who with her husband and family served for some years in Liberia, West Africa, is now with her husband to help start a new Church in Chicago. Mrs. John Vallance went with her husband and family in January 1965 to work in Bulawayo, Rhodesia and they are still there.

In 1927 the brick edifice was damaged by fire. New Sunday School rooms, kitchen and baptistry were added at once and other repairs made. The work was completed in December, eight months after the fire. It was necessary to borrow money for the rebuilding, so payments on the debt had to be added to regular expenses. Those depression years were difficult and many ways were used to raise needed funds. Pledges were often paid with real sacrifice, both by groups and individuals. At the monthly meetings of the Missionary Society the usual refreshments were omitted and committees gave the amount that would have been spent to the building fund. After many months of this frugality one hostess did break the rule and served hot biscuits and maple syrup and tea, a pleasant surprise of all. It had also been customary for the Missionary Society to hold their annual meeting at the Church in the afternoon with a nice program following the business. Then in the evening their families joined them for a hearty dinner at \$1.00 a plate. After deducting expenses this always added a nice sum to their treasury. During the years of paying the debt, every one paid for the meal as usual but no dinner was served so the entire amount went toward the debt.

In 1936 the Yates Baptist Church which had from the time of the founding been a member of the Northern Baptist Convention changed her affiliation to the General Association of Regular Baptists. A few years later that affiliation was terminated by the Church which has since



been an independent Baptist Church. The members continue to contribute generously to Missions but the money is sent to Missionaries selected by the Church, in Africa, South America and The Phillipines and to three fields in this country.

The members have continued to keep their property in good repair. In 1954 the parsonage was completely repaired at a cost of \$5500. The steeple, roof and front of the Church edifice were extensively repaired in the '50s. More recently it had been modernized inside with an acoustical ceiling, new pews and pulpit furniture. At the same time an oil furnace and storm windows were installed. The vestibule was redecorated in 1970 and new doors and floor put in. Also a public address system was installed and Movie projector purchased as memorials for Mrs Mary Engall who had been a consecrated worker in the Church.

The Yates Church lays claim to one famous member, Dr. Charles Fairman, who at the time of his death on December 27, 1934, was one of the seven leading Mycologists in the world. He had served as deacon, trustee and teacher and was greatly missed. Two other members who contributed to the spiritual growth of the Church for over 50 years were, Mrs. Elsie Lum, teacher of the Women's Berean Bible Class and beloved by all, and Herbert Martin Men's Bible Class teacher, lay preacher and outstanding youth leader. Many other members, too numerous to mention, have served their Lord and Master devotedly in the Yates Church.

Regarding the purpose of Yates Baptist Church, one member states; "As it was in the days of our Founding Fathers, it is still our earnest desire to be free to give supreme allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ - the Head of the Church - and to seek to develop a program under the administration of the Holy Spirit which shall bring glory and honor to the cause of Christ. We seek to maintain a regenerate membership, constantly emphasizing the need for personal witness in word and life. We pledge ourselves anew to 'contend earnestly for the Faith once for all delivered unto the saints.'"

Yates Baptist Church membership, Jan. 1971 is 145. Sunday Service Worship Service 10:00 a. m. Sunday School 11:15 a. m. Youth Fellowship, Jet Cadets and Sr. Youth - 6 p. m. Gospel Service 7 p. m. Wednesday- Prayer and Bible Study 7:30 p. m. Choir rehearsal 8:40 p.

Pastor - The Rev. Duane R. Hauser, Organist - Mrs. Edgar Cooper, Officers: Clerk - Mrs. Ronald Felstead, Treasurer - Roger Breeze Sr. Financial Sec. - Mrs. Clifford Stothers, Missionary Treas. - James Feaster, Chairman Deacons - Kenneth Neal, Chmn. Trustees - Roger Breeze Sr., Sunday School Supt. - Ronald Felstead, President Women's Miss. Society - Mrs. LeRoy Bannister, Pres. Youth Fellowship - Allen Meister.

List of pastors: The Revs. - Jeremiah Irons 1822-1829, Hervey Blood-1829 - '31, Geo. P. Davis 1831 - '34, Arah Irons 1834 - '39, Samuel Gilbert 1839 - '43, Jonathan Ketchum 1843 - '45, Wm. Rees 1845 - '49, Nelson Fillis 1849 - '51, Abel Haskell 1851 - '60, H. West 1860 - '63, W. T. Potter 1863 - '80, J. H. Palmer 1880 - '83, H. W. Wilson 1883 - '86, F. R. Holt 1886 - '89, B. R. Smith 1889 - '90, L. Davis 1891-1897, F. E. Warner 1897 - '99, Harry Miles 1899-1904, Hugh Morton 1904 - '05, B. M. Poston '05 - '06, Earl Cressy '07 - '09, J. G. Wirth '09 - '14, S. E. Lewis '14 - '17, N. E. Miller 1917 - '21, C. F. Krauth '21 - '25, Wm. Herzog '25 - '33, J. Naylor '33 - '36, H. Thompson '36 - '39, L. Palk '39 - '41, W. Gwyn '41 - '43, Floyd Childs '43 - '53, P. Thomson, '54 - '56, H. Blanchard '56 - '58, P. Thomson '58 - '61, George Engle 1962 - 1966, Duane R. Hauser 1966 -



## COUNTY LINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Second Methodist Episcopal Church of Yates, located at County Line was organized about 1825 with Stephen Bateman as the first leader. Others active in the Church were Andrew Rawls, John Elliston, Frederick Shaver, John Shaver and Michael Shaver. Undoubtedly there were women among the early members but history does not mention their names. This Church grew from an early Ridgeway preaching station, as did most Methodist Churches. Services were held in barns, school houses and in the open air during warm weather, for more than twenty-five years before a meeting house was built. For some years the worships were conducted by the Ridgeway Circuit preachers. Later Ridgeway Circuit was broken up after a number of Churches had grown strong enough to support pastors, and this Church was served for a time by the pastor of the Lyndonville Methodist Episcopal Church.

David Cartwright settled in the area in 1833, and being an earnest and conscientious Christian soon became a leader in the Church. History gives him much of the credit for the erection of the house of worship in 1852. The neat frame building was dedicated in 1854 by the Rev. S. Seager, D. D. The Church, organized as the second Methodist Episcopal Church of Yates, seldom used this official name but has always been known as the County Line Church, the meeting house having been built on the Orleans side of the County Line Road. The members organized a Sunday School at an early date and it has always been maintained. In 1844 Conference placed the County Line and Somerset Churches together as a pastoral charge.

The Church continued to grow and prosper for a few years after they built their house of worship but in 1859 for reasons not now clear a division came in the group and a majority of the members withdrew. They called themselves Nazarites but never organized and after a time united with the Free Methodists. The few who remained faithful to the M.E. Church worked untiringly to maintain services and soon began to win new members and grow strong again.

There are few Church records available covering the closing years of the century but some news paper clippings tell of a number of events. The Annual Sunday School picnic was a happy occasion in most Churches and their communities as everyone was usually invited to attend. An 1884 clipping states that 150 attended the Sunday School picnic which was held at Lakeside. Another clipping dated the same years indicate that the Missionary Society was active. "The Foreign Missionary Society met at the home of neighbor Todkill with 32 attending." Apparently evangelistic services at the County Line Church in 1884 resulted in five persons presenting themselves for baptism and Church membership. As they favored immersion, the congregation repaired to the Lake where the Rev. H. C. Woods administered the sacred rite of baptism in a very solemn and impressive manner," according to another news paper clipping.

In 1890 young people of County Line Church organized a Society of Christian Endeavor with five members all of whom were elected to office viz; George Veness -President, Estelle Pettis, -V. Pres., Orson Porter -Treas., Elmer Porter - recording Sec. and Jennie Todkill - Correspond. Sec. The following year membership had increased to 35 with 10 associate members.

Annual conference under Bishop Fowler separated Somerset - county Line charge in 1892 and County Line Church was given their first full



time pastor, the Rev. J. O. Hazelton. There were 69 members in the Church at that time. The sheds built years before to shelter the rigs of the members during services, were deteriorating so new sheds were built that year.

Early the following year, members living in or near Millers, the hamlet which had grown near the intersection of the RW&O RR and County Line Road, withdrew from the Church to join with other Methodists living there to form a new Church. Rev. Hazelton conducted services there. The official boards held their quarterly meetings together alternately at each building. The Millers congregation built a church in the summer of 1893. The County Line Church seemed not to have been weakened by the loss of the members who helped form the new Church.

A Ladies Aid Society was organized with ten members in the fall of 1893. The ladies worked with such energy that they were soon able to purchase a carpet for the parsonage. The County Line Church never owned a parsonage but rented a house for the pastor's family. They also packed a barrel of clothing for the Deaconess Home in Buffalo. The Society soon increased in membership.

County Line Church was growing after entering the twentieth century and the congregation began to consider providing better facilities. In 1915 their building was completely remodeled and raised in order to construct a basement which provided a dining room, kitchen and space to install a furnace. A new vestibule with entrance from the north and lead to the basement was added. The basement was also used for Sunday School classes. Shares in the project were sold to members and friends at ten dollars each to pay the cost of the improvement. The following year new oak pulpit furniture was given by Mrs. Sylvia Goss in memory of her first husband, William Cartwright who was the son of that early leader in the Church, Daniel Cartwright.

The church was considerably damaged by fire in 1922 when an overheated furnace ignited woodwork and carpet and scorched the pews. While necessary repairs were being made St. John's Lutherans invited the congregation to hold services in their church. Two years later County Line was again placed with Somerset under the care of one pastor.

An overheated furnace again started a fire which did extensive damage some years later. The pastor suggested that while making repairs the sanctuary be somewhat remodeled. The chancel was divided with communion table and cross at center, lectern and pulpit at the sides. A hardwood floor was laid and red carpet runners made for the aisles. The congregation worshiped in the Somerset Church while the work was being done. The rededication service was held on Easter Sunday, 1934 with District Superintendent, Rev. Earl Shephard, D. D. delivering the sermon.

The Millers meeting house had burned down in 1911, the Church disbanded and the site taken over by Conference. In 1947 the lot was transferred to County Line Church. A Boy Scout log cabin was built on the property and used for scout activities for a decade or more. In December 1965 the official Board voted to grant permission to the local 4-H Club, the Clever Clovers with Mrs. Stella Robison as leader, to use the log cabin as their meeting place and to restore the cabin and landscape the grounds as their beautification project.

In 1948 County Line Church was again separated from Somerset and placed in Rochester District under the care of the Lyndonville pastor



who was the Rev. Raymond Draffin at that time.

Memorial gifts provided a \$2,300 Wurlitzer electronic organ in 1950. Also that year the kitchen was remodeled with electric stoves replacing the old wood and oil ranges, double sink with running water, new counter tops and new tile floor .

The one hundredth anniversary of the building of the church was celebrated in 1952 with special services arranged by Rev. Draffin. District Superintendent, the Rev. Richard Davies, D.D. was the speaker.

In 1955 the two circles of the Ladies Aid Society were reorganized as the Wesley and Martha's Circles of the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Restrooms were installed in 1960 at a cost of \$2,000. District boundary lines were again altered in 1961 so that County Line, Lyndonville and Somerset have since been in the Batavia District. This Church was placed under the care of the Rev. Frank Mucci, pastor of the Barker Church in 1962. The Town of Somerset extended a water line to the County Line in 1965 and for the first time in the history of the Church, drinking water was available. Hitherto it had been carried from nearby farms in milk cans.

The Church is now the County Line United Methodist Church, with a January 1971 membership of 120, Church School - 60. Sunday Worship Service is at 9:30 a. m., Church School- 10:30. Officers are; the Pastor - Rev. Raymond H. Draffin, Chmn. Administrative Board - Charles Perry, Secretary - Mrs. Burton Porter, Treasurers - Donald Nellist & Nancy Porter, Chmn. Trustees - Homer Manley, Chmn. Council on Ministries - Arthur Porter, Chmn. Education & Church School Supt. - Mrs. Dennis Bail, Chmn. Missions - Nancy Porter, Chmn. Youth Min. - Charles Perry, Youth Mem. of Council - Susan Perry. Lay Leader - Harry Arnold, Lay Mem. of Conf. Elizabeth Breeze, Pres. W.S.C.S. - Mrs. Wallace Klino, Director of Music - Marjorie Perry, Organist - Mrs. Burton Porter.

Pastors since 1880- The Revs. R.P. Jervis 1880, H.C. Woods 1881-84, B. Hudnut 1885-87, R. O. Nettleton 1888-91, J.O. Hazelton 1892-93, R. E. Brettell 1893-95, W.W. Costen 1896-97, J.R. Walters & S.A. Rear 1897, T.T. Sharpe 1898-99, J. A. Dearing 1899-1900, W.P. Trowbridge 1900-02, W.E. Wells 1902-03, C.L. Carpenter 1903-05, F. Mittlefehldt, 1905-07, C.C. Rozell 1907, Ray Wooten 1908, J. Iredale 1908-09, N.C. Kingsbury 1909-10, M.R. Chapman 1911, J. K. Underhill 1912-14, C. E. Swearingin 1914-18, H.A.C. Ross 1918, A.R. Bloomfield 1918-20, H.G. Stacey 1920-22, A. D. Scrimshaw 1923, A.E. Mathews 1923-30, Ernest Scott 1930-35, W. Partington 1936, Wm. Young 1936-39, B. B. Swartz 1939-42, Mareum May 1942-47, George Geyer 1947-48, R. Draffin 1948-53, Donald Peck 1953-59, Chester Beebe 1959-62, Frank Mucci 1962-63, R. Draffin 1963-64, Harold Hewitt 1964-65, John Templeton, Jr. 1965-1967, R. H. Draffin 1967-

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#### MILLER'S M. E. CHURCH

A few members of County Line Church withdrew in 1893 to form a new Church at Miller's, the hamlet around the R.R. station about a mile south of the old Church. They built a meeting house on a lot donated Edgar D. Miller and worshiped there for 18 years under the care of the County Line pastor. When the Church burned down in 1911, the members disbanded and returned to the County Line Methodist Church.



## UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LYNDONVILLE

This Church was organized on October 3, 1833 by a commission from Niagara Presbytery as the First Presbyterian Church in Yates. The 16 persons who formed the new Society met for that purpose in the fulling mill built on the north bank of Johnson's Creek in Lyndonville by Peter Klock in 1830. One of the members, Isaac Hurd, was appointed as deacon and the Rev. David Page served as the first pastor. There are no records of the other officers or charter members of the Church.

Membership evidently increased in the new Church, for five years later they felt able to build a house of worship. There was some controversy regarding the location, for members came from a wide area of the town. Yates Center had been settled earlier than Lyndonville and at that date appeared to be the more thriving village. However, astute men realizing that water power which was lacking at Yates Center would eventually draw business and people to Lyndonville, prevailed in their preference for the latter place for the site of their edifice. It was built in 1838 on the west of Main Street where it still stands. As the Church increased in numbers and prosperity, the building was improved. In 1869 it was extensively renovated and repaired at a cost of \$3,000 which was the same as the cost of building in the first place.

Congregations and Sunday School attendance continued to increase so more space was needed. In 1888 the building was enlarged and remodeled at a cost of \$3,500, during the pastorate of the Rev. E. W. Twitchell. Rededication services were held the following January 3.

Apparently the First Presbyterian Church of Lyndonville, did not own a parsonage until 1875. The first reference to a home for the pastor is in that year when a lot on North Main Street was purchased from Merritt Hard on which a frame parsonage was erected. It was used until 1947 when a fine brick residence on south Main Street was purchased by the Church and the old house was sold.

Few records can be found regarding the Christian program of this Church during most of its life but it is known that a Sunday School was established at an early date and religious education carried on continuously. The women of the Church organized Missionary Societies many years ago and young people were working in a Christian Endeavor Society before the close of the nineteenth century.

During the past twenty years the Church plant has been greatly enlarged to meet modern needs and land acquired for adequate parking. In 1952 a 46' by 38'-5" addition was built on the west end of the old edifice to provide a dining room, modern kitchen, rest rooms and an entrance lobby leading into the dining room and into the original church. The expense of this addition was about \$12,000.

The pipe organ which had served the Church for many years was completely rebuilt in 1960 at a cost of \$7,000.

A few years later more classrooms were needed for the Sunday School. Plans were made for an educational building to also include the pastor's study to be added on west of the former addition. Work was begun in 1966 and completed early the following year. This 38' by 66' structure contains seven classrooms, the pastor's office-study, a large storage room, a coat room and closet for choir robes. Entrance from the driveway to parking area, is through a short covered breezeway to a foyer, opening into both additions. A separate entrance from the breeze-



way opens into classroom #7 which also serves as library and, on week days, as reception room for the pastor's study. There is a 14 foot opening with accordion doors leading from dining room into classroom # 1 whereby it can be used as an extension of the dining room when necessary. Classroom # 2 can be used to further extend the dining area by opening wide double 6 foot doors between these two classrooms. The addition is panelled throughout in elm, birch or mahogany, has electric heat with separate controls in each room and was constructed with heavy insulation in outside walls and in ceilings. This building which is adaptable to so many uses was completed at a cost of \$26,000. The Church is fortunate in having in the membership a registered Architect, Mr Harold F. Patterson, who donated his services in providing the plans and specifications for both additions.

The United Presbyterian Church of Lyndonville in 1971 has a membership of 267; In recent years has been a member of Genesee Valley Presbytery; in addition to their local Church program, members support the World Mission program of the denomination, contribute to General Assembly and Presbytery and Church Extension operating expenses, support the Orleans Chapter of the Ministry of Concern, sponsor Girl Scouts, and for many years Migrant Summer School classes were held in their building. They also help support two Missionaries, the Rev. and Mrs. W. Ransome Rice in Korea and Mr. David Berger, Buckhorn, Kentucky.

Organizations are: Presbyterian Women's Guild, Standby Class, Adult and Youth Fellowship groups.

Sunday Worship Services are held 11 a. m. Sunday School at 9:45 a. with various Organization and Officers meetings and Choir rehearsals during the week.

Present Officers are: Minister - The Rev. Richard Billingsley, Elders - Herman Schroeder, Burnette Petrie, Walter Riemer, Coleman Petrie, Ralph Woodworth, Irving Petrie, Gordon Bennett, Milliard Smythe, Co-Chmn Bd. of Trustees- Bradley Bentley, Lewis Myhill, Treas.- Mrs. Herman Schroeder, Fin. Sec. Mrs. Watson Plummer, S. S. Sup. Donna Bentley and Diane Krenning, Music Director- Fred Bluhm, Pres. P. W. G. - Mrs. Ralph Woodworth, Pres. Standby Class - Mrs. Ralph DeBrine, Co-Pres. Adult Fellowship - Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Taylor, Pres. P. Y. F. - Douglas Petrie.

Pastors: The Revs. David Page, 1833-1836, Joel Potter 1837, Richard Dunning 1837-39, Wm. Bridgeman 1840, Hugh Carlisle 1841-42, J. H. Rice 1842, Isaac Flagler 1843-44, Jonathan Hovey date of service unknown- Truman C. Hill, O. H. Barnard, P. J. Burnham, Fred A. Chase J. W. Marcussohn, Allen G. Daniels, E. W. Twitchell 1887 -1891, Henry G. Dean 1891 to at least 1895, No records available for some years Samuel A. Freeman at least from 1902 - 1906 perhaps longer, Herbert Brown 1914-1923 absent in 1918 while serving as Army Chaplain in World War I. Rev. Kibler 1923-24, Frank Bisbee 1924-32, Arthur Harris 1932-35, Harry A. Depfer 1935-45, Cummings 1945-46, Thomas Tighe July 1946 until his death from an heart attack just before service Sunday Jan. 29, 1950, Supplies 1950, Rev. Richard Billingsley 1951 -



## THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

According to LANDMARKS OF ORLEANS COUNTY, this Church was formed in 1843 by twenty-four members who withdrew from the Presbyterian Church in Lyndonville because they had adopted the doctrine of perfectionism and also believed strongly in the abolition of slavery. In the County Clerk's office we find recorded that "A Society was organized January 29, 1849 at Lyndonville, known as the First Christian Society of Yates." This was signed by S. H. Morse and G. W. Martin. It is probable that this later date is the time the members legally incorporated in order to hold property.

The Society bought a lot, located on the west side of main st. just north of Johnson's Creek, from Nelson A. Frost. There they erect a substantial frame meeting house. Apparently this Society, known as the Christian Church, was active for a very short period as there are no records of the names of members, except the two signatures on the statement of incorporation, or of pastors who served the Church. LANDMARKS, published in 1894, stated that their building had been sold some years before and was at that time the residence of Dr. R. B. Wright. The building stood for nearly a century until it burned in the fire which destroyed the nearby mill in 1940.

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## THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

This Church like others of that denomination, was formed by a group which withdrew from the local Methodist Episcopal Church. The Rev. B. T. Roberts organized the Free Methodist Church of Lyndonville with 25 members at the home of Silas Wood in January 1861. Services were held in the homes of members for some years with the Rev. Russell Wilcox, the first pastor. The first trustee was elected in 1868, William H. Lott, and a building site purchased from J. M. Dates for \$600. The next year the meeting house was erected on the northeast corner of Main and Maple Streets at a cost of \$2,700. The Church prospered for some years but for some reason did not incorporate until Nov. 27, 1872. Trustees at that time were Cornelius Johnson, W. H. Lott and R. R. Hallock.

The Free Methodist Church apparently won few new members, and in 1880 disbanded. Most of the remaining members united with the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Ashwood. The meeting house was sold in 1889 to Dr. David S. Fraser and remodeled for use as a drug store, dwelling and public hall. It has remained in the Fraser family with a drug store continuing in business there until 1970. The building still stands in January 1971 but is now empty.

Pastors who served this Church were: the Revs. Russell Wilcox, J. B. Freeland, A. A. Phelps, Henry Hornsby, William Jones, James McAlpine, A. A. Burgess, Marson E. Brown, Levi Wood, A. H. Bennett, M. C. Burritt and O. O. Bacon.

As this was being typed there happened to come to light an Orleans Republican of Aug. 28, 1901. In it was an account of a party given Rev and Mrs. Henry Hornsby in honor of his 80th birthday. Henry Hornsby was the beloved pastor who had served a number of Orleans County Free Methodist Churches, including the one at West Kendall where they were living at this date, after retirement.



## ASHWOOD WESLEYAN CHURCH

A small group of people were holding regular meetings to worship God in 1854 in a schoolhouse which stood on the west side of the Yates Carlton Town Line Road, just south of the intersection with the Platten Road. The schoolhouse burned in 1855 and the district built the new one farther north. The people who had been worshipping there decided to organize a Church and build their own meeting house. Abel Plummer, Robert Kenyon, William Merrill, John Cain, Russell Sill, Parker Sargent and Almond Bostwick were appointed as trustees to see to the legal incorporation. The Rev. Joseph Swallow, pastor of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at Eagle Harbor, assisted the group in forming the Church. The members came from both Yates and Carlton but the new Church was incorporated as "The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Yates". The trustees purchased the site from the School District for \$100 and there built the church.

Four of the members, Abel Plummer, John Sill, John Platten and Parker Sargent, each are said to have given \$200 for the cost of construction. The Church was built of the best of timber, most of it from the farm of Abel Plummer and the rest from Parker Sargent's woodlot. The huge beams were all hand hewn. Mr. Sargent also built the communion table and gave it to the Church. The building was completed in 1856 at a cost of \$1,000, the balance contributed by other members. The new Church was served by the pastor of the Wesleyan Methodists of Eagle Harbor.

Pastors and members carried on the Church work as they understood it through the passing years, meeting to worship God and helping one another to grow in grace, training the children in the homes and in Sunday School in the study of the Bible, accepting Christ as their personal Saviour and living by His teachings. Also the Church sought to evangelize others in the community. There are, however, few records of their activities until the second decade of the present century.

The Wesleyans of Eagle Harbor lost their meeting house by fire in March 1918 and soon afterward that Church died out. The Yates congregation thereafter had to support a pastor alone. At about this time they dropped the word "Yates" from their name and became known as the Ashwood Wesleyan Methodist Church. In 1919 they began to build a parsonage next to the church. Mrs I. A. Verbridge, treasurer of the building committee, reported on March 3, 1920 that the house was completed at a cost of \$2798.53, fully paid. The first to occupy the new parsonage were the consecrated couple, the Revs. N. R. and Mae K. Shaffer who served the Church and community for four years. During that time a number were converted and added to the membership, the meeting house was repaired, raised and placed on a new wall to provide a basement for Sunday School use.

A few years later the Rev. Walter Readett served a second pastorate and during revival meetings held by Evangelist C. I. Armstrong at that time, twenty persons accepted Christ.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Adrian Everts, 1950 -1956, the members entered upon an extensive program of building improvement in recognition of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Church and building of the house of worship. Church and parsonage were repainted, and a new furnace and bathroom placed in the parsonage.



Oil heat was installed in the Church, the sanctuary redecorated and recarpeted and the basement remodeled to provide more Sunday School class rooms. Other needed repairs were made. More important, the members felt spiritually blessed at that time, with new converts coming into the Church. During the century the Ashwood Church had twice entertained the Annual Conference, and also Young People's Rallies and District Conventions.

As the Church entered upon the second century of service to God and man the congregation continued to bring gifts to enrich the sanctuary. A new organ was dedicated April 11, 1962. Later new pews were purchased, a piano, cross, offering plates and sanctuary lamps were acquired and all dedicated December 6, 1964. During those years the congregations and Sunday School attendance continually increased and it became necessary to plan for more space.

In 1965 a building committee was elected to consider possibilities for improving the parsonage and enlarging the church. Some years before additional land had been purchased south of their property. Now the trustees were authorized to purchase 2 1/2 acres west of the church. During 1966 plans for an addition were carefully considered and finally rejected as impractical. The following January a Building Fund Committee was elected and planned the fund raising. This was not the usual high pressure fund raising campaign. Instead the committee called the Church to a prayer service and the people were simply asked to bring contributions to the Fund Treasurer as they felt God directed them. By April, \$40,000 had been received. In May the Church voted to erect a new building adequate for their needs and the Building Committee began to study plans. In July the Church approved plans for a \$62,000 building. In September of that year, 1967, ground was broken and contracts signed. Work was begun that fall. June 1968 the Building Fund Treasurer had received \$62,000 cash. The general contractor, Mr. Lawrence Olson, constructed the building including utilities for the amount approved by the Church and was paid when the work was completed. Furnishings, carpet, the parking lot and landscaping cost an additional \$15,000 which the trustees were authorized to borrow. Volunteer labor by many members of the congregation kept the cost down. The attractive but simple and practical structure, which architects have valued at \$110,000, cost less than \$80,000. The new Church was dedicated on Sunday, October 20, 1968.

The Ashwood Church has always had a small membership, only 30 when they undertook the building of a new edifice. They have been able to carry on such amazing projects because all members bring a tenth of their incomes to the Church and in addition make free will offerings. Also attendance at services is much larger than the membership because many people find their worship services and Bible study in Sunday School helpful and give generously to the Church although they are not willing to accept the very strict rules for membership. Through the years the Church has kept up the Sunday Evening service after most Churches had discontinued them. Many Church people who enjoy Bible based preaching and the singing of old familiar hymns drive considerable distances to attend these services and they also contribute.

The Wesleyan Methodist Denomination merged in 1968 with the Pilgrim Holiness Society. There are no Churches of that denomination in this area but they are fairly numerous in Pennsylvania and a few along the border in New York. The merged group is known as Wesleyan, the words Met



odist and Pilgrim Holiness having been deleted. The Ashwood Wesleyan Church is now a member of the Western New York District of the Wesleyan Church which replaced the former Lockport Conference of which it was a member for many years.

January 1971 membership is 44, S. S. enrollment 120, ave. att. 95. Organizations are: Ladies' Missioary Society and Wesleyan Youth. Pastor- The Rev. Donald Buck, Officers: Clerk- Mrs. Walter Eckler, Treasurer- Mrs. Gordon Baker, Trustees - Milford Dunn, Gordon Baker, Vernon Krisher, Walter Eckler and Warren Johnson, S. S. Supt. Warren Johnson, Jr., Organist - Mrs. Graydon Baker, Directors Wed. Evening Youth Activities - Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith.

Regular services : Sunday 10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, 6:30 Wesleyan Youth, 7:30 p.m. Evening Service. Wednesday 7:30 p. m. Prayer Service, 7:00 - 9:00 Devotions & Recreation for Youth.

Pastors 1855 - 1894 Revs. Joseph A. Swallow, Benjamin Rider, D. B. Douglas, P. Glanson, C. W. Swift, D. B. Baker, L. W. Krahrl, John Randolph, A. F. Dempsey, H. S. Besse, E. J. Pope, J. B. Fleming, R. F. Dutcher, O. Wight, F. S. Lee, H. W. McDowell 1891 - 1894. There are no records from 1894 to 1900 and possibly Rev. McDowell continued to serve during that period. From 1900 to the present time the Revs. Charles Sicard, H. R. LaVere, Walter Readett, N. R. and Mae K Shaffer, F. R. Collins, C. W. Dudley, George Bathurst, Walter Readett O. G. and Diana Wyman, A. Gordon Wolfe, Frank C. Taylor, Beverly Barnett, Adrian Everts 1950-1956, Eldyn Simmons 1956 - 1958, Otis McDona 1958 - 1960, Hudson Hess 1960 - 1962, Ralph Speas 1962 - 1969, Donald Buck 1969 -



## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. John's Lutheran Church was founded in the home of August Ebling, Lower Lake Road in Barker, on April 19, 1900. For a few weeks meetings were held in the homes of members. That summer a blacksmith shop on the north side of Route 18, a short distance east of the intersection with County Line Road, was purchased by the congregation. This was remodeled in an attractive white frame house of worship.

The Church was founded as a German speaking congregation and most of the German speaking people of the area united with it at the time. The population of the vicinity has remained quite stable so the membership has not grown appreciably. The children, however, were soon using English and both languages were used in services from 1916 to 1929, when German was dropped completely.

The building was greatly improved in 1949 by being raised and a basement constructed. The bell loft was also added at that time. A celebration was held in 1950 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Church.

A parsonage was built just west of the church. It was completed about the middle of August at a cost of \$15,000, the Rev. Charles R. Frederick being the first, and at this date the only pastor and family to occupy it.

In 1966 the outside of the church was painted and the following winter a new boiler installed for the furnace.

St. John's is affiliated with the Buffalo -Lake Ontario Conference of the Eastern District of The American Lutheran Church whose headquarters are in Minneapolis, Minn. The St. John's congregation share a pastor with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wilson. The hour of the worship service on Sunday alternates on a yearly basis beginning the first Sunday in August with Sunday School scheduled accordingly. Since January 1, 1970 there has been no pastor, but the Rev. Paul Nemeschy of Medina has been serving as Interim Pastor.

Jan. 1971 Membership 213 baptized, 157 confirmed members. Sunday Church Service 10:45, Sunday School 9:30 a. m. Organizations: Ladies Aid, American Lutheran Church Women, and Luther League ( Youth group).

Officers: Lyman Bigford - Chairman of Bd., Treas.-\*Henry Charache Trustees - Milford Scharlau, William Mavell, Harold Huenemoerder, Edwin Langerdorfer, Deacons - Edwin Hornung, Roger Meland, S. S. Supt. Morris Smith, Organist - Lois Fernberg, Pres. Ladies Aid - Barbara Austin Pres. ALCW - Donna Quiett

Pastors: The Revs. Otto Bruss -1900-01, K. A. Hoessel 1901 -05, H. F. Guse 1905-06, W. F. Knauff 1906-08, M. Reuckwald 1908-10, Edwin Nemeschy 1910-12, John Huenemoerder, 1913-22, Paul C. Hoffman, 1923-25, J. J. Huehn 1926-35, A. W. Glessner 1936-41, H. Werner Neumann 1942-46, H. G. Actenburg 1947-49, A. F. G. Daechsel, 1950-58, C. W. Elliot 1958-63, Charles R. Frederick 1964-69, Paul Nemeschy, Interim Pastor 1969- Feb. 1971, Clarence W. Elliot Feb. 1971 -



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH  
Lyndonville, N. Y.

Prior to 1917 families professing the Catholic faith who lived in the area of Lyndonville, worshiped with St. Mary's congregation in Medina. In 1917, the Rev. Thomas F. Gleason, pastor of St. Mary's Church, organized St. Joseph's Mission in Lyndonville to provide a place of worship for the fifteen families in that vicinity. A site was purchased and a small church with seating for 125 people erected on the south side of Lake Avenue. The church was dedicated by Bishop Dougherty of Buffalo in 1917. For 45 years St. Joseph's was served by the Pastors and assistants of St. Mary's Church. During that period the number of families connected with St. Joseph's had increased to 100 families which included about 400 souls, children and adults. During that period, the Rosary-Altar Society was organized, the church hall and kitchen refurbished, a sizable savings account established with the diocese in the name of St. Joseph's, and additional land purchased east of the church, also land on the north side of Lake Ave. which was made into a parking area.

Upon the recommendation of Right Rev. Monsignor James T. Sullivan, pastor of St. Mary's, Bishop Burke raised St. Joseph's to the status of a parish on August 30, 1962. Bishop Burke appointed the Rev. Albert J. Bosack as the first resident pastor. He was installed by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Felix McCabe, pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Albion, on September 2, 1962 and is still serving the Lyndonville Parish in 1971. St. Joseph's parish includes all the township of Yates, that part of Carlton west of Oak Orchard Creek, and that part of the town of Ridgeway north of the Ridge Road.

Plans for building a residence for their first pastor were immediately begun. The plans were approved by the diocese in April 1963. A Building Fund Drive was then instituted which brought in pledges of \$14,00 over a three year period and the rectory was built on a lot east of the church. It was ready for the pastor to occupy in September 1964. During the following five years \$14,500 was raised by the members through various projects. Improvements before 1967 were painting of the church inside and out, redecorating the basement and buying new equipment for fellowship hall and kitchen. A new organ for the church was also purchased. The most recent improvement has been the construction of 4 class rooms in the Rectory basement in 1969.

On October 13, 1967 St. Joseph's Church celebrated her fiftieth anniversary with a Golden Jubilee Dinner Dance at Apple Grove Inn with an appropriate program. The following Sunday the Most Rev. Stanislaus J. Brzana, Aux. Bishop of Buffalo led the parishoners in giving thanks for the past and beseeching God's blessing for the future. At this time three of the original members of St. Joseph's Mission, Helena Mahar, Floyd Smith and Mrs. Stanley Barry, Sr. were still active in the Church.

The first confirmation class of 48 young people was held on May 16, 1965. Since that time many infants have been baptized and children confirmed but the Catholic population of the area has remained fairly stable and the present membership of St. Joseph's 400 is about the same as when the Parish was set up in 1962.

Officers of the church are the pastor and two trustees, at present, Lester J. Dinneen and Stanley R. Barry, Jr. Dr. Julius Layer served as a trustee for 12 years until his death in 1963.



Organizations are the Rosary-Altar Society, 40 women members; the Holy Name Society for men, the Christian Home and Family Society and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

A Sunday School is maintained and for many years a Summer Bible School was conducted for children.

Regular services are Mass Saturday 7:30 p.m. Sunday Masses 8:30 and 10:30am Relig. Ed. 9:25-10:15 a.m.

During the summer months when many area cottagers attend St. Joseph's, 4 masses are scheduled on Sundays.

Pastors of St. Mary's Medina who served St. Joseph's from 1917 to Sept. 1962 Revs. Thomas Gleason, James Hogan, David Cahill, Rt. Revs. Henry B. Shaw, James T. Sullivan and their assistants, Revs. Vincent Gowney, Louis Witkop, John Ryan, Leo Reddy, Francis Garvey, Joseph O'Connor, Thomas Rourke, William Sutherland, Lawrence Loughnane, Paul Durkin, Donald Trapp, Joseph Jensen, Charles Amico, Richard Strassberger, Charles Griffin, Joseph Shaheen and Lawrence Nicastro.

Resident Pastor since 1962 Rev. Albert J. Bosack.